

Congressman speaks at rally for education and advocacy for persons with mobility impairment

April 24, 2007

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) today spoke at a rally, sponsored by the Unite 2 Fight Paralysis Foundation and the Christopher Reeve Foundation, to raise awareness for the need for bipartisan legislation to help Americans with paralysis. The rally focused on the need to pass the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act (H.R. 1727), legislation on which Congressman Bilirakis is an original cosponsor. The following are the Congressman's remarks as delivered at this morning's rally:

"Thank you all for being here to help bring awareness to this tremendously important cause. It's efforts like these that help bring national attention to the need for advancement in paralysis research. In addition, individual efforts like yours will hopefully bring swift Congressional action on the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act.

"Unfortunately, millions of Americans suffer from paralysis and mobility impairment. These individuals struggle each day to perform even the most basic of tasks that many of us take for granted. The economic and emotional impact this impairment has on their lives, and the lives of those who care for them, is staggering. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act and an ally in the fight to expand research and improve the quality of life of persons with paralysis.

"I hope that this Congress can work in a timely, bipartisan manner to do just that. Thank you for your hard work on this issue. May God bless you and the people we are trying to help."

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